

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL AFFAIRS**

March 11, 2021

8:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Tiffany Zulkosky, Chair  
Representative Dan Ortiz  
Representative Zack Fields  
Representative Mike Cronk

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Geran Tarr

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 10**

"An Act relating to the Funter Bay marine park unit of the state park system; relating to protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funter Bay; providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funter Bay marine park unit; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED HB 10 OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 10

SHORT TITLE: FUNTER BAY MARINE PARK: UNANGAN CEMETERY

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) HANNAN

02/18/21	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/21
02/18/21	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/18/21	(H)	RES, FIN
02/24/21	(H)	TRB REPLACES FIN REFERRAL
02/24/21	(H)	BILL REPRINTED
03/01/21	(H)	RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
03/01/21	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
03/03/21	(H)	RES REFERRAL MOVED TO AFTER TRB
03/03/21	(H)	BILL REPRINTED
03/09/21	(H)	TRB AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
03/09/21	(H)	Heard & Held
03/09/21	(H)	MINUTE(TRB)
03/11/21	(H)	TRB AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106

## **WITNESS REGISTER**

MARTIN STEPETIN

Friends of Admiralty Island

Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided public testimony during the hearing of HB 10.

JOEL BENNETT

Friends of Admiralty Island

Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided public testimony during the hearing of HB 10.

PRESTON KROES

Alaska State Parks

Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions during the hearing of HB 10.

## **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[8:00:45 AM](#)

**CHAIR TIFFANY ZULKOSKY** called the House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Representatives Fields, Ortiz, Cronk and Zulkosky were present at the call to order.

### **HB 10-FUNTER BAY MARINE PARK: UNANGAN CEMETERY**

[8:01:23 AM](#)

CHAIR ZULKOSKY announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 10, "An Act relating to the Funter Bay marine park unit of the state park system; relating to protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funter Bay; providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funter Bay marine park unit; and providing for an effective date."

[8:01:42 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HANNAN clarified current acreage of Funter Bay Marine Park, which was 450 acres, with a water tidal table of 730 acres, for a total of 1180 acres. If HB 10 were to pass,

251 land acres would be added, creating 1431 total acres in the new park. Maps were included in members' packets to reflect this, she added.

[8:02:55 AM](#)

CHAIR ZULKOSKY opened public testimony on HB 10.

[8:03:17 AM](#)

MARTIN STEPETIN, Friends of Admiralty Island, spoke in support of HB 10. Shared personal history as grandparents were in Funter Bay Aleut Internment site in 1942. Mr. Stepetin said of all the camps, Funter Bay was the deadliest, as about 10% of its population died, mostly the very young and very old. He shared HB 10 was very important to his family as it protected his family's resting place. Solely because of actions by the federal government, but actions to protect it lay with the state. There were currently 50 people buried in Funter Bay, he shared, and the sacred ground should be left in peace. In Killisnoo Island there were 17 people buried, he said. The biggest difference was Killisnoo was private land and may never be able to be protected, he shared. Funter Bay can be protected, he said.

[8:09:30 AM](#)

CHAIR ZULKOSKY drew members' attention to a letter of support for HB 10 from Alaska Native Sisterhood.

[8:10:01 AM](#)

JOEL BENNETT, Friends of Admiralty Island, spoke in support of HB 10. An adjacent landowner to the internment site at Funter Bay, Mr. Bennett said he wanted to protect the rich history of Admiralty Island, especially that of its Native inhabitants. He said for over 20 years members have monitored and safeguarded the cemetery and its surroundings. Friends of Admiralty Island has also hosted a healing ceremony which included a Russian Orthodox blessing and raised a 12-foot healing cross. He added there was no commercial interest in the land.

[8:14:15 AM](#)

CHAIR ZULKOSKY closed public testimony on HB 10.

[8:14:32 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK asked whether the transfer would affect hunting or fishing subsistence.

[8:15:02 AM](#)

PRESTON KROES, Alaska State Parks, replied no, Alaska Department of Fish & Game regulations in the area would remain in effect.

[8:15:30 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ moved to report HB 10 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 10 was reported out of the House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs.

[8:15:58 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:15 a.m. to 8:17 a.m.

[8:17:00 AM](#)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.